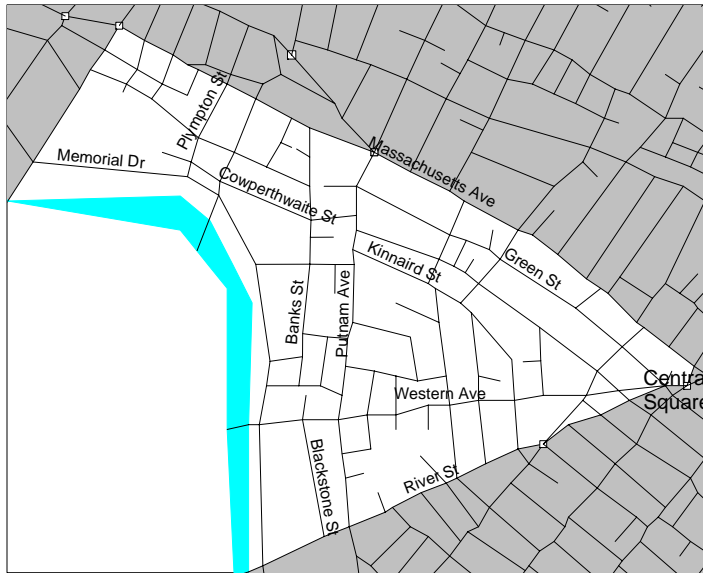
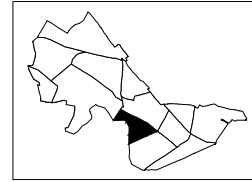


# NEIGHBORHOOD 7: Riverside



**BOUNDARIES:** bordered by Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, the Charles River, and JFK Street

**POPULATION:** 11,201 residents  
3,341 households

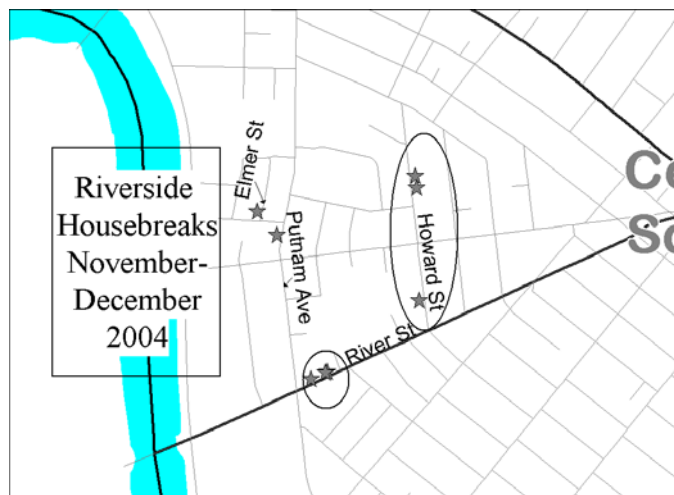
**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**  
\$27,415

Neighborhood #7 is encompassed within the patrol boundaries of Car 3 (2 officer cars) and Cars 6R and 10R (1 officer cars). Also included within its boundaries are walking routes 7A and 7B.

## COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 2000 - 2004

CRIME	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Housebreaks	38	61	39	38	47
Street Robbery	21	11	19	19	22
Auto Theft	26	38	30	33	26
Larceny from MVs	25	35	41	32	39
Malicious Destruction	89	85	86	72	65
Drug	11	20	15	17	14

## 2004 YEAR END REVIEW

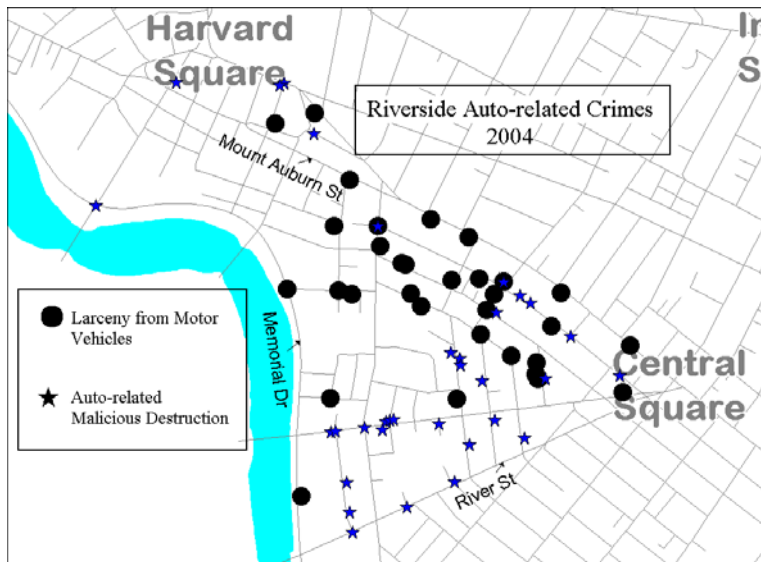


- There was a 23% increase in **housebreaks** in Riverside in 2004 over the previous year. The 200 block of River Street saw the bulk of the activity, while Putnam Ave and Howard Street also saw multiple incidents. Towards the end of the year there were multiple housebreaks on the Riverside border, some of which were part of a larger pattern in Cambridgeport. The majority of the breaks in this pattern, spanning November to December were daytime breaks occurring between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Windows were used to gain entry in all incidents, three which occurred on River Street and three occurred on Howard Street. Two arrests at the end of 2004 and beginning of 2005 ended this pattern.

- The 22 **street robberies** represented the high mark in Riverside over the past 5 years. The first month of 2004 saw five robberies. Two involved homeless on homeless robberies, and, based on differing suspect and weapon descriptions, the remaining three did not appear related. Seven incidents were reported along Mass Ave. throughout the year; incidents there mainly took place between 6-8 p.m. and 12:30-2:30 a.m. Of the 22 robberies, a gun was threatened or shown in four incidents and a knife was used in another incident to steal a woman's purse. The remaining incidents either involved strong-arm tactics, where the victims were punched or thrown to the ground, or no weapons at all.

- The number of **autos reported stolen** in Riverside has decreased 21% over last year, and is down over 31% from a high in 2001. Six of the stolen vehicles were Hondas, the most commonly stolen type across the City and nation. Multiple incidents were reported in the 800 block of Mass Ave, along Green Street and at the Enterprise Rent-a-Car on River Street. Sixteen of the 26 autos were recovered to date, a recovery rate of 61%.

- Riverside had the third lowest total number of **larcenies from motor vehicles** (LMV's) in 2004 compared to the other neighborhoods. While Kinniard, Green and Flagg Streets each reported multiple incidents over the year, the bulk of activity was seen along Mass Ave, particularly the parking lot at 872 Mass Ave. Five incidents were reported at this location where windows were broken and radios or items in view were stolen. Approximately 23% of the incidents in 2004 were larcenies from the exterior of the vehicles. Honda tire thefts and Audi headlight thefts have been a concern in Cambridge throughout the year. Two Audi headlight thefts were reported, and of the three vehicles in Riverside that had tires stolen, two of those were Hondas. In November, an individual was arrested after he was caught smashing a Jeep Cherokee window on Mass Ave and stealing two purses.



- The number of **malicious destruction** incidents reported in Riverside decreased 9% over 2003 and is down 26% from the 2000 totals. Tire slashing was the most common report type taken in Riverside. There were 17 tire slashings reported in 2004. Thirteen (13) of these occurred in September, including one overnight spree of seven incidents which also involved police vehicles. In November, a slashing spree was reported where multiple vehicles were targeted along Howard Street early one morning. There were 10 businesses targeted for broken windows, particularly businesses in the 1100-1200 block of Mass Ave. The majority of these involved unruly or

intoxicated customers. With the exception of two next-door businesses with broken windows in March, these incidents did not seem related.

- Surveillance by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and patrol officers, including the execution of search warrants enabled seven of the **drug arrests** in Riverside, for Cocaine, Crack, Marijuana and Heroin possession and sales. One additional individual was arrested after reportedly paying off a tow truck driver with Marijuana. Six arrests were made (or drug charges added) after field interviews and searches incident to arrest.

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR RIVERSIDE AREA TARGET CRIMES					
<i>Crime</i>	<i>1981-1990</i>	<i>Rank '81-'90*</i>	<i>1992-2003</i>	<i>Rank '92-'03*</i>	<i>Rank 2004*</i>
Housebreaks	83	7	43	5	8
Street Robbery	34	4	16	6	3
Auto Theft	92	9	38	9	9
Larceny from MVs	87	7	45	7	10
Malicious Destruction	78	9	76	5	8

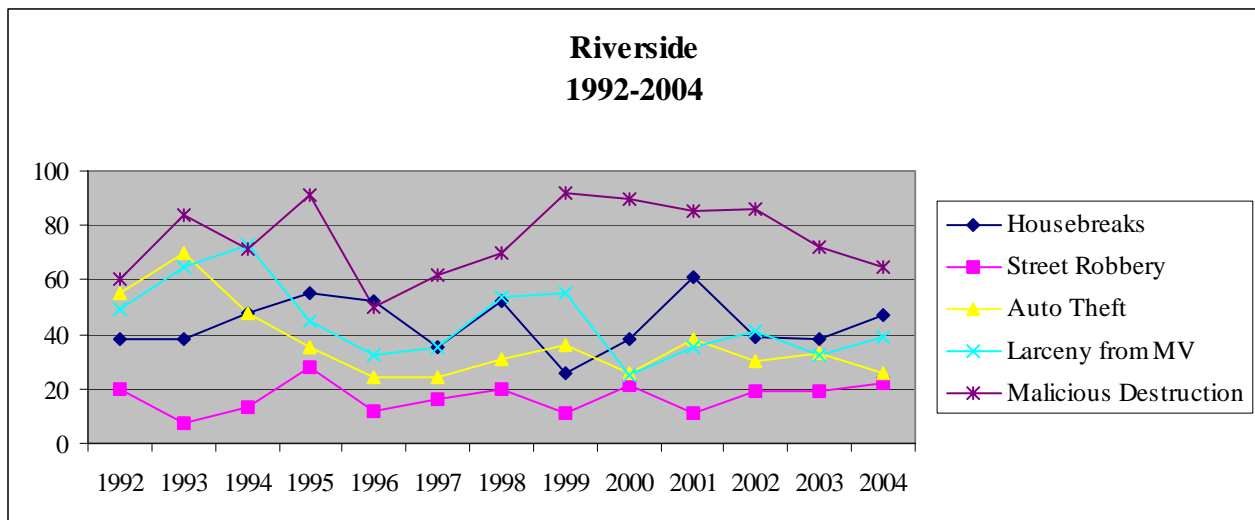
\*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Riverside has the fourth highest population in the city, but it ranks well below the average for almost all index crimes. Along with its 10 thousand residents, Riverside has two housing developments (Putnam Gardens and the River-Howard homes), two major parks (Hoyt Field and Riverside Press Park), and many commercial establishments along Massachusetts Avenue, River Street, and Western Avenue. Several Harvard University dormitories and other properties occupy the northwestern quarter. Riverside's borders also encompass the United States Post Office and the Cambridge Police Department headquarters.

*Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the northwestern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on university property.*

- **Malicious destruction** is the only crime that has not shown a significant average decline in Riverside since the 1980s, though it is low compared to the rest of the city. Most of this vandalism targets motor vehicles. Occasional patterns of this crime over long holiday weekends have been a problem in the past.
- **Street robberies** are low for a neighborhood of Riverside's population, but they remain a pressing problem. Most of these incidents are on Western Avenue. Riverside has an exceptionally low **housebreak** rate for its size; a few clusters appear on Franklin and Kinnaird Streets, and at Putnam Gardens.
- The only neighborhoods with lower **auto theft** and **larceny from motor vehicles** totals have less than half of Riverside's population.



## 2003 YEAR END REVIEW

There were no **auto theft** patterns in Riverside in 2003. Twenty-one of the 33 incidents resulted in recoveries. Two-thirds of auto thefts occurred during the spring and summer months. • Three **drug arrests** were made June 27 at the police department when defendants who had been placed under arrest in different neighborhoods for unrelated offenses were found in the possession of drugs, boosting Riverside's total. Most of the neighborhood's arrests were the result of marijuana or cocaine possession. • Six **street robberies** resulted in arrests in Riverside; homeless persons were the perpetrators in four of these incidents. The 700-1300 blocks of Mass Ave. were the location of six of the 19 street robberies reported. • Damage to cars, mainly broken windows, made up the majority of **malicious destruction of property** incidents. About a quarter of incidents took place on Mass Ave. There were ten instances of graffiti, but none of them seem to be indicative of tagging. • The items most commonly removed in **housebreaks** included laptops, jewelry, entertainment equipment (DVD players, DVD's, etc.) and cash. The last four months of 2003 saw a marked increase in activity, as more than half the incidents occurred from mid-August to the end of December. In multiple instances, the perpetrator(s) struck multiple apartments in a building in succession, inflating the number for the neighborhood. • There were small sprees of **larcenies from motor vehicles** in June, July, and August. The most common method of entering automobiles was by breaking a window.